

REMARKS

Submitted herewith for filing in the present application is an amendment to supplement the amendment filed September 10, 2004.


The present application was originally filed with claims 1-74. In the amendment filed September 10, 2004, claim 73 was canceled. In the present supplemental amendment, claims 1-40, 50-68, and 72-74 are canceled. New claims 75-128 are filed in which claims 75, 91, 104, 109, 116, and 122 are independent claims.

By virtue of the supplemental amendment, a total of 66 claims are pending, including 8 independent claims. Originally, the application was filed with 74 claims, including 12 independent claims. Therefore, no additional fee is required for filing the supplemental amendment.

New claims 75-128 are supported by the specification. It is submitted that none of the prior art references disclosed by applicant or cited by the examiner disclose or suggest the features or method steps defined by new claims 75-128 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments, explanations and remarks, allowance of claims 41-49, 69-71, and 75-128 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



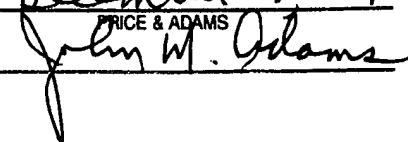
John M. Adams
Attorney for Applicants

Price & Adams
4135 Brownsville Road
P.O. Box 98127
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15227

Phone: (412) 882-7170
Fax: (412) 884-6650

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with The United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

December 23, 2004

PRICE & ADAMS


December 23, 2004